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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Cattle on Feed
Hay Production
Sugar Beet Production
Annual Bulletin Available Soon
Milk Production
Egg Production
Wheat Utilization
Red Meat Production

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.2 million head on October 1, 2003. The inventory was 2 percent below October 1, 2002 and 8 percent below October 1, 2001. The inventory included 6.24 million steers and steer calves, down slightly from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.91 million head, down 4 percent from 2002.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.47 million, 13 percent above 2002 and 16 percent above 2001. Net placements were 2.41 million. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 698,000, 600-699 pounds were 545,000, 700-799 pounds were 610,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 621,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 2.03 million, 10 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during September, 19 percent above 2002 and 37 percent above 2001.

October 1, 2003 Montana All Hay and Sugar Beet Production Forecast Up from 2002

Alfalfa hay yield in Montana remains unchanged from the August forecast of 2.10 tons per acre. Total production of

alfalfa hay is estimated to be 3.465 million tons, up 18 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage, at 1.65 million for alfalfa, also remained unchanged from August, but represents a 250,000 acre increase from 2002. Rain early in the growing season and more water for irrigation enabled many growers to get at least one cutting of alfalfa on more acreage than the previous year. **Other hay** yield did not change from August's forecast, and is estimated at 1.30 tons per acre, down 0.10 ton per acre from last year. Other hay production is expected to be 1.30 million tons, down 23 percent from 2002. Other hay harvested acreage is unchanged from August at 1.0 million acres, but is down 200,000 acres from 2002. **All hay** production is estimated at 4.765 million tons, up 3 percent from last year. Overall, the increase in production is attributed to increased acreage, however the long hot summer and lack of precipitation since June decreased yields and limited many dryland producers to a single cutting.

Montana **sugar beet** production is forecast at 1.305 million tons, unchanged from last month's forecast, but is up 19 percent from 2002. Forecasted yield, at 25.0 tons per acre, is unchanged from last month, but is up 5.4 tons per acre from last year. Harvested acreage is forecast to be 52,200 acres, down 3,700 acres from last year. Sugar beet harvest is ahead of last year with 22 percent of the beets pulled for the week ending October 5, compared with the 5-year average of 25 percent.

Nationally, hay production, for **alfalfa** and alfalfa mixtures, is forecast at 78.5 million tons, up less than 1 percent from the August forecast and 6 percent above 2002. Yields are expected to average 3.34 tons per acre, up 0.03 ton from the August forecast and 0.15 ton from last year. Harvested area is 23.5 million acres, unchanged from the August estimate but up 2 percent from 2002. Dry conditions in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin hindered growth and development while providing excellent harvesting conditions. U.S. **Other hay** production is forecast at

82.2 million tons, virtually the same as August but up 7 percent from 2002. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.01 tons, the same as the August forecast but 0.15 ton above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield. Harvested acreage is estimated at 40.8 million, unchanged from the August estimate but down 1 percent from 2002. Record high yields are forecast for Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia due to abundant rainfall during the growing season. In the central Great Plains, the lack of rainfall in August stressed crops and limited yields, but they remain higher than last year.

Sugar beet production for the U.S. is forecast at 29.9 million tons, 3 percent below the September forecast but 8 percent above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugar beet-producing States expect to harvest 1.35 million acres. This is virtually unchanged from the September forecast but 1 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 22.2 tons per acre, 0.6 ton below the September forecast but 1.8 tons above 2002. Most States began harvest near the end of September. In both Minnesota and North Dakota, 11 percent of the crop was harvested as of September 28, slightly behind the 5-year average in each State.

Montana Agricultural Statistics 2003 Bulletin Available Soon

The annual report contains state and county crop and livestock estimates, farm income, prices, farm numbers, Montana's rank among states, and other statistical data.

The Montana Agricultural Statistics 2003 bulletin will be available soon in printed form or on our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/. The price for the printed book is \$10.00. Those who supply survey information are not charged.

October 1, 2003 Crop Production Forecast, Montana and U.S.

Crop	Unit	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield		Production	
		2002	2003 1/	2002	2003 1/	2002	2003 1/	2002	2003 1/
		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	1,450	1,800	750	1,720	28.0	37.0	21,000	63,640
Durum Wheat	Bu.	590	640	565	630	23.0	23.0	12,995	14,490
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3,750	2,850	3,450	2,700	22.0	22.0	75,900	59,400
All Wheat	Bu.	5,790	5,290	4,765	5,050	23.1	27.2	109,895	137,530
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	65.0	60.0	13.0	15.0	140.0	4/	1,820	4/
Oats	Bu.	145	120	55.0	45.0	49.0	44.0	2,695	1,980
Barley	Bu.	1,200	1,100	950	810	42.0	39.0	39,900	31,590
Flaxseed	Bu.	17.0	13.0	15.0	12.0	13.0	4/	195	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	26.9	19.0	23.0	17.0	15.7	19.2	361	326
Dry Peas	Cwt.	32.0	50.0	27.0	39.0	7.6	3/	205	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	25.0	32.0	21.0	29.0	7.1	3/	149	3/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	9.5	10.0	3.5	3.0	5.8	3/	20	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	58.0	52.3	55.9	52.2	19.6	25.0	1,096	1,305
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.5	310.0	3/	3,224	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	1,400	1,650	2.10	2.10	2,940	3,465
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	1,200	1,000	1.40	1.30	1,680	1,300
All Hay	Ton	--	--	2,600	2,650	1.78	1.80	4,620	4,765
UNITED STATES		(000) Acres		(000) Acres				(000) Units	
Winter Wheat	Bu.	41,845	44,945	29,751	36,541	38.5	46.7	1,145,602	1,707,069
Durum Wheat	Bu.	2,909	2,915	2,703	2,869	29.4	33.7	79,450	96,637
Spring Wheat	Bu.	15,714	13,840	13,463	13,429	29.3	39.7	393,949	532,820
All Wheat	Bu.	60,468	61,700	45,917	52,839	35.3	44.2	1,619,001	2,336,526
Corn for Grain 2/	Bu.	79,054	79,066	69,313	71,765	130.0	142.2	9,007,659	10,207,141
Oats	Bu.	4,995	4,601	2,093	2,224	56.7	65.0	118,628	144,649
Barley	Bu.	5,071	5,299	4,129	4,688	54.9	58.9	226,573	276,087
Flaxseed	Bu.	785	583	704	572	17.9	4/	12,569	4/
Dry Beans	Cwt.	1,922.1	1,501.2	1,726.9	1,417.8	17.4	16.7	29,974	23,603
Dry Peas	Cwt.	302.7	356.0	279.7	334.0	15.2	3/	4,242	3/
Lentils	Cwt.	221.0	246.0	209.0	240.0	12.0	3/	2,508	3/
Aus. Winter Peas	Cwt.	21.5	21.2	11.6	10.6	14.1	3/	164	3/
Sugar Beets	Ton	1,427.3	1,364.7	1,361.1	1,347.7	20.4	22.2	27,718	29,882
Fall Potatoes	Cwt.	1,138.8	1,114.4	1,109.4	1,093.4	373.0	3/	414,317	3/
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	--	--	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.34	73,824	78,523
All Other Hay	Ton	--	--	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	77,138	82,183
All Hay	Ton	--	--	64,497	64,379	2.34	2.50	150,962	160,706

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Forecast available November 12, 2003. 4/ Forecast available January 9, 2004.
 -- Not published.

September Milk Production Down 0.1 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during September totaled 11.6 billion pounds, down 0.1 percent from September 2002. August revised production, at 12.1 billion pounds, was down 0.9 percent from August 2002. The August revision represented a decrease of 0.1 percent or 17 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,503 pounds for September, 6 pounds more from September 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 38,000 head less than September 2002, and 7,000 head less than August 2003.

July-September Milk Production Down 0.6 Percent

Milk production in the U.S. during the July-September quarter totaled 41.5 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the July-September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.07 million head, 88,000 head less than the same period last year.

September Egg Production Down 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.05 billion during September 2003, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.04 billion table eggs and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 961 million were broiler-type and 55.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2003 averaged 332 million, down 2 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,127 eggs, up slightly from September 2002.

Wheat Utilization for 1998-2002 Marketing Years

The June 2001 - May 2002 marketing year total wheat supply was 167.2 million bushels, 13 percent more than a year earlier, but 15 percent below the 1999-00 marketing year. Total supply is calculated by adding 2002 all wheat production to June 2002 all wheat stocks. Total disposition of 125.6 million bushels was 38 percent more than the quantity marketed during the 2000-2001 marketing year. Ending stocks of 41.6 million

bushels were 27 percent less than last year. Wheat utilization reports are assembled from Grain Movement Reports and Grain Market News data by the Montana Agriculture Statistics Service. Funding was provided by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee

Montana shipped 115.0 million bushels out of state during the 2001 - 2002 marketing year, 70 percent more than moved during the same period last year. Shipments to the Pacific Northwest totaled 82.8 million bushels, 85 percent more than

the 2000 - 2001 season, and accounted for 72 percent of the wheat shipped out of state. Pacific Northwest export facilities accounted for 65.6 million bushels, while Pacific Northwest processing terminals accounted for 17.2 million bushels.

Inspected exports of hard red winter, hard red spring, hard white, and durum wheat from Pacific ports were 200.2 million bushels, up 2 percent from the previous year. Montana's recorded share of those exports was 33 percent, 14 points above the 2000-2001 marketing year.

ALL WHEAT: Supply and Disposition By Marketing Year, Montana, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
	Million Bushels					Percent
SUPPLY						
Beginning Stocks 1/	67.0	70.6	60.9	51.4	57.3	111
Production	168.8	154.3	135.2	96.6	109.9	114
Total Supply	235.8	224.9	196.1	148.0	167.2	113
DISPOSITION						
Recorded movement out of state 2/	139.4	145.5	130.8	67.7	115.0	170
Used for seed in Montana	6.1	5.7	5.8	6.3	5.7	90
Residual 3/	19.6	12.8	8.1	16.7	4.9	29
Total Disposition	165.2	164.0	144.7	90.7	125.6	138
Pacific Northwest exports as a percent of total disposition	64%	60%	60%	41%	52%	
Ending Stocks 1/	70.6	60.9	51.4	57.3	41.6	73
1/ June 1 stocks, All Positions 2/ Montana Wheat Movement Project 3/ Used for flour, used for livestock feed, handling losses, and other unaccounted disappearance.						

ALL WHEAT: Recorded Movement by Destination & Marketing Years, Montana, 1998-2002

ITEM	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
	Million Bushels					Percent
All Destinations	150.9	160.9	149.6	83.7	131.1	157
Out of Montana	139.4	145.5	130.8	67.7	115.0	170
Pacific Northwest Destinations	120.4	112.5	98.0	44.8	82.8	185
Export Destinations	105.0	98.3	87.2	37.2	65.6	176
Export Facilities	99.8	91.8	81.4	34.8	63.3	182
Columbia/Snake River Barge System	5.2	6.5	5.8	2.4	2.3	96
Processing Destinations	15.5	14.2	10.8	7.6	17.2	226
Interior Oregon & Washington Facilities	8.5	8.2	5.3	2.2	10.8	491
Mills	6.9	6.0	5.5	5.4	6.4	119
Non-Pacific Northwest Destinations	19.0	33.0	32.8	22.9	32.2	141
Montana Destinations	11.5	15.4	18.8	16.0	16.1	101
Inspected exports of Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White, and Durum - Pacific ports 1/	227.0	207.4	204.4	195.5	200.2	102
Montana recorded exports as percent of total Hard Red Spring, Hard Red Winter, Hard White and Durum exports from Pacific ports	46%	47%	43%	19%	33%	

1/ California, Oregon, and Washington ports.

PLEASE NOTE: Funding for the above statistics was provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.

Red Meat Production for September 2003

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during September 2003. Red meat production was down 11 percent from the previous month and 4 percent from the previous year.

Cattle slaughtered statewide totaled 1,600 head, which unchanged from September 2002. The average live weight, at 1,133 pounds, was down 7 pounds from the previous year. During September there were 1,300 hogs slaughtered in Montana, 200 fewer than a year ago. The average live weight, at 238 pounds, was down 1 pound from a year ago. The number of sheep slaughtered, at 400 head, is 100 head fewer than the previous year. The average live weight was unchanged from 2002 at 124 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.01 billion pounds in September, a monthly record high, up 3 percent from the 3.87 billion pounds produced in September 2002.

U.S. beef production, at 2.31 billion pounds and a monthly record high, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.12 million head, up 9 percent from September 2002. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,227 pounds.

Veal production for the United States totaled 15.4 million pounds, 6 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 82,600 head, down 7 percent from September 2002. The average live weight was 5 pounds above last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production in the U.S. totaled

1.66 billion pounds, a monthly record high, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.55 million head, 1 percent above September 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 263 pounds.

U.S. lamb and mutton production, at 16.9 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,300 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, up 3 pounds from September a year ago.

January to September 2003 commercial red meat production in the United States was 35.0 billion pounds, down slightly from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received	Sugar Beets
Austrian Winter Peas	2003 Crop Year Summary
Dry Edible Peas	
Lentils	
Potatoes	

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